

Message Text

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15/21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SNM-02 DEAE-00 TRSE-00 OES-03 /065 W

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O R 070825Z JAN 75 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8998

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0038

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y PARA 2 LINES 3 AND 5

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR BM TH

SUBJ: UPDATE ON LO HSING-HAN CASE

REF: BANGKOK 0200

1. TRIAL SESSIONS FOR LO HAD BEEN PROGRESSING AT A PACE OF ABOUT ONE EVERY TWO WEEKS. MOST RECENT SESSION WE ARE AWARE OF WAS HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER WITH ANOTHER SCHEDULED FOR 5 DECEMBER, WHICH WAS DATE STUDENTS SNATCHED U THANT'S BODY. IF SESSION WAS HELD, THE USUAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE WAS LACKING. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF ANY SESSION SINCE THEN.

2. PREVIOUS SEVERAL SESSIONS WERE MOSTLY REHASHES. THERE IS VERY LITTLE HARD EVIDENCE TO IMPLICATE LO DIRECTLY SINCE HIS DEPUTIES ACCOMPLISHED MOST OF THE PAYOFFS AND SMUGGLING. EVEN WHEN DAMAGING EVIDENCE IS PRESENTED, IT IS GENERALLY QUALIFIED BY STATEMENTS TO EFFECT THAT LO WAS FIGHTING INSURGENTS, THAT HIS TROOPS RECEIVED INSUFFICIENT PAY FROM GUB, AND THAT LO ENGAGED IN SMUGGLING OUT OF NECESSITY TO MAINTAIN HIS PAY.

3. TENOR OF YEAR-LONG TRIAL HAS BEEN FOR GUB TO EXTRACT EVIDENCE
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FROM LO AND OTHER WITNESSES IMPLICATING SENIOR GUB MILITARY AND

CIVILIAN OFFICIALS IN SMUGGLING SCHEMES. TO THAT END, GUB HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL. SEVERAL SENIOR OFFICERS HAVE EITHER BEEN PLACED ON TRIAL OR TRANSFERRED TO LESS IMPORTANT POSITIONS.

4. UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMORS IN PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE HAD IT THAT LO MAY HAVE BEEN RELEASED ON BAIL OR THAT LO HAD BEEN OFFERED HIS RELEASE IN EXCHANGE FOR AID IN FIGHTING INSURGENTS. THE LATTER RUMOR DOUBTLESS ARISES FROM RELEASE OF SHAN UNITED ARMY LEADER CHANG CHI-FU WHO MAY HAVE STRUCK A DEAL WITH GUB. FYI - WHEN SEVERAL GUB OFFICIALS WERE QUERIED ON RELEASE OF OTHER NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS INCLUDING CHANG IN SEPTEMBER 1974, STOCK REPLY WAS THAT THEY WERE ARRESTED UNDER OLD DRUG LAW AND HAD SERVED THEIR SENTENCES.

OSBORN

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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